

My Name is Peter Reid, and I am an animal control officer in Westport and Weston. While the current statute has been a useful enforcement tool, it could be improved. I think the most important change would be to include a temperature component. The current verbiage about “weather advisories” and “outdoor environmental conditions” is altogether too vague.

I would suggest providing enforcement guidelines with minimum and maximum temperatures for tethering. Perhaps 40 degrees at the low end and 90 degrees at the high end. That would allow an officer to go to a scene and make a definitive judgment based on a thermometer, not a subjective assessment. Having a hard and fast temperature rule would also make it harder for a violator to challenge an infraction in court.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

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